



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KAYENTA MAN INDICTED FOR DESECRATING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on April 2, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a two count indictment against Nickolas Le Sueur Greer, of Kayenta, Arizona.

The indictment alleges that sometime in the Fall of 2001, Greer dug and partially excavated a known archaeological site, namely a trash midden containing pottery and at least one human burial which is associated with a cliff dwelling, both of which date to no later than AD 1150 to AD 1250-75. The archaeological site is located northwest of Kayenta, Arizona. Greer removed several items from the site, including a whole pottery vessel, a broken pottery vessel and a mano. The damage to the archaeological value of the site was calculated to be \$21, 697.94 and the cost of restoration and repair was calculated to be \$8, 592.15.

The federal indictment charges Nickolas Le Sueur with violating the Archaeological Resource Protection Act, Title 16 of the United States Code, Section 440ee(a) and Destruction of Government Property, Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1361.

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A conviction for violation of Title 16 of the United States Code, Section 440ee(a) carries a maximum penalty of five year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both, and a conviction for violation of Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1361 carries a maximum penalty of ten years, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and The Navajo Nation and the prosecution is being handled by Kimberly M. Hare, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona. The Navajo Nation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States Attorney's office view the stealing of artifacts, cultural material and the desecration of archaeological sites as a very serious matter that continues to plague the American West. These agencies will continue to work together to protect these historical and sacred cultural sites for further generations and to ensure that the people who desecrate these sites are prosecuted. Kim Hare, who is the Assistant U.S. Attorney handling this case states "Housed within these archaeological sites is part of the history of this nation and the U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to helping to preserve this history through the aggressive investigation and prosecution of these looters."

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